

What is claimed is:

1. A method for testing software, the method comprising:
  - receiving a plurality of test-modules associated with an external system and organized into a sequence,
  - each test-module including at least one software-targeted testing-inquiry that generates a plurality of intermediate results, the test module returning a distilled result based upon the intermediate results,
  - receiving one or more rules to which at least one of the test-modules in the sequence is subject, application of each rule having one or more outcomes, at least one outcome for each rule being the determination of the next test-module to be administered, each rule including one or more actions conditioned upon the distilled result returned by the corresponding test module, the one or more conditioned actions being configurable to be a branch out of the sequence to a predetermined test-module;
  - administering the sequence of test-modules sequentially except where a branch is invoked to administer the sequence from another point in the sequence, the administering of a current test-module including
    - executing the current test-module, the executing including sending signal bits to the external system; and
    - applying, if the current test-module is subject to one or more rules, such one or more rules.
2. The method for testing of claim 1, further comprising:
  - receiving commands to arrange a portion of the plurality of test-modules to create the sequence of test-modules, and
  - receiving commands to associate at least one condition and at least one action to at least one test-module of the sequence of test-modules.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein, the action is at least one of sending a communication, aborting, skipping a test-module in the test-module sequence, repeating a test-module, branching, and executing a program.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein, the sending may be executed using at least one of mailing, Emailing, paging, and phoning.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein, at least one of the test-modules is repeatedly administered until passing state information is returned.

6. The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
associating a test-module identification value for each test-module in the sequence, the test-module identification value corresponding to an order of the test-module sequence.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the distilled results are determined based on a synthesis of values of the plurality of intermediate software-targeted testing-inquiry results.

8. A system that tests software, the system comprising:  
means for receiving a plurality of test-modules associated with an external system and organized into a sequence,  
each test-module including at least a software-targeted testing-inquiry that generates a plurality of intermediate results, the test module returning a distilled result based upon the results,  
means for receiving one or more rules to which at least one of the test-modules in the sequence is subject, application of each rule having one or more outcomes, at least one outcome for each rule being the determination of the next test-module to be administered, each rule including one or more actions conditioned upon the distilled result

returned by the corresponding test module, the one or more conditioned actions being configurable to be a branch out of the sequence to a predetermined test-module;

means for administering the sequence of test-modules sequentially except where a branch is invoked to administer the sequence from another point in the sequence, the administering of a current test-module including

executing the current test-module, the executing including sending signal bits to the external system; and

applying, if the current test-module is subject to one or more rules, such one or more rules.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

means for receiving commands to arrange a portion of the plurality of test-modules to create the sequence of test-modules, and

means for receiving commands to associate at least one condition and at least one action to at least one test-module of the sequence of test-modules.

10. The system of claim 8 wherein, the action is at least one of sending a communication, aborting, branching, repeating a test, executing a branch, and executing a program.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein, the sending may be at least one of mailing, Emailing, paging, and phoning.

12. The system of claim 8 wherein, at least one of the test-modules is repeatedly administered until passing state information is returned.

13. The system of claim 10 further comprising:

means for associating a test identification value for each of the test-modules of the sequence, the test identification value corresponding to the order of the test sequence.

14. The system of claim 8 wherein the distilled results are determined based on a synthesis of values of the plurality of intermediate software-targeted testing-inquiry results.

15. A system that tests software comprising:  
a results database,

a test engine configured to receive a plurality of test-modules associated with an external system and organized into a sequence,

each test-module including a software-targeted testing-inquiry that generates a plurality of intermediate results, the test module returning a distilled result based upon the results,

the test engine further receiving one or more rules to which at least one of the test-modules in the sequence is subject, application of each rule having one or more outcomes, at least one outcome for each rule being the determination of the next test-module to be administered, each rule including one or more actions conditioned upon the distilled result returned by the corresponding test module, the one or more conditioned actions being configurable to be a branch out of the sequence to a predetermined test-module;

the test engine further administering the sequence of test-modules sequentially except where a branch is invoked to administer the sequence from another point in the sequence, the administering of a current test-module including

executing the current test-module, the executing including sending signal bits to the external system; and

applying, if the current test-module is subject to one or more rules, such one or more rules.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a test management system configured to receive a plurality of test-modules, receive commands to arrange a portion of the plurality of test-modules to create the sequence of test-modules, and receive commands to associate at least one condition and at least one action to at least one test-module of the sequence of test-modules.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein, the action is at least one of sending a communication, aborting, skipping a test-module in the test-module sequence, repeating a test-module, executing a branch, and executing a program.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein, the test management system sends at least one of an Email, page, and phone message.

19. The system of claim 15 wherein, at least one of the test-modules is repeatedly administered until passing state information is returned.

20. The system of claim 16 further comprising:

an associating system that associates a test-module identification value for each of the plurality of test-modules, the test-module identification value corresponding to the order of the test-module sequence.

21. The system of claim 15 wherein the distilled results are determined based on a synthesis of values of the plurality of intermediate software-targeted testing-inquiry results.

22. A machine readable medium including instructions executed by a computer, the instructions comprising:

receiving a plurality of test-modules associated with an external system and organized into a sequence,

each test-module including at least a software-targeted testing-inquiry that generates a plurality of intermediate results, the test module returning a distilled result based upon the intermediate results,

receiving one or more rules to which at least one of the test-modules in the sequence is subject, application of each rule having one or more outcomes, at least one outcome for each rule being the determination of the next test-module to be administered, each rule including one or more actions conditioned upon the distilled result returned by the corresponding test module, the one or more conditioned actions being configurable to be a branch out of the sequence to a predetermined test-module;

administering the sequence of test-modules sequentially except where a branch is invoked to administer the sequence from another point in the sequence, the administering of a current test-module including

executing the current test-module, the executing including sending signal bits to the external system; and

applying, if the current test-module is subject to one or more rules, such one or more rules.

23. The machine readable medium of claim 22, further including instructions executed by a computer, the instructions comprising:

receiving commands to arrange a portion of the plurality of test-modules to create the sequence of test-modules, and

receiving commands to associate at least one condition and at least one action to at least one test-module of the sequence of test-modules.

24. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein, the action is at least one of sending a communication, aborting, skipping a

test-module in the test-module sequence, repeating a test-module, executing a test-module out of sequence, and executing a program.

25. The machine readable medium of claim 24 wherein, the sending may be executed using at least one of mailing, Emailing, paging, and phoning.

26. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein, at least one of the test-modules is repeatedly administered until passing state information is returned.

27. The machine readable medium of claim 23 further comprising associating a test-module identification value for each test-module of the sequence of test-module, the test-module identification value corresponding to the order of the test-module sequence.

28. The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein the distilled results are determined based on a synthesis of values of the plurality of intermediate software-targeted testing-inquiry results.